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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Training and Advisory Services

United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Training and Advisory Services

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. By resolution 51/46 F of 10 December 1996, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue with the annual implementation of the programme and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

II. Disarmament fellowship programme

A. 1997 and 1998 fellowships

3. Twenty-four fellowships were awarded in 1997 and in 1998. The respective names and nationalities of the officials who benefited from the programme in 1997 and in 1998 follow.

1997 fellows

1.	Mr. Djamel **Saïdani**	Algeria
2.	Ms. Nahida **Sobhan**	Bangladesh
3.	Mr. René **Ortega Meza**	Chile
4.	Mr. **Long** Zhou	China
5.	Mr. Daniel **Avila**	Colombia
6.	Ms. Dania Margarita **Santana Trueba**	Cuba
7.	Mr. Song Il **Jong**	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
8.	Mr. Stefan **Kordasch**	Germany
9.	Mr. László **Deák**	Hungary
10.	Mr. Suryana **Sastradiredja**	Indonesia
11.	Ms. Claudia **Colla**	Italy
12.	Ms. Leila **Baishina**	Kazakhstan
13.	Ms. Maria Perla **Flores Liera**	Mexico
14.	Ms. Loubna **Al Atlassi**	Morocco
15.	Ms. Ekaterina **Chumicheva**	Russian Federation
16.	Mr. Mame Gorgui **Gueye**	Senegal
17.	Mr. Tumagole P. **Tsholetsane**	South Africa
18.	Ms. Aruni **Wijewardane**	Sri Lanka
19.	Mr. Agbessi Zomblewou **Kokou**	Togo
20.	Ms. Natalia Petrivna **Huzerchuk**	Ukraine
21.	Mr. Kagyabukama E. **Kiliba**	United Republic of Tanzania
22.	Ms. Helen **Bird**	United States of America
23.	Mr. **Pham** B. Minh	Viet Nam
24.	Mr. Bebra G. **Munodawafa**	Zimbabwe

1998 Fellows

1.	Ms. Cinthia V. **Echavarria**	Argentina
2.	Ms. Aissata **Gomgnibou Boly**	Burkina Faso
3.	Mr. Krešimir **Bošnjak**	Croatia
4.	Mr. Haitham Mahmoud **Ghobashy**	Egypt
5.	Mr. William Osbaldo **Hernandez**	El Salvador
6.	Mr. Pa Modou **Ann**	Gambia
7.	Mr. Muhammad **Adam**	Ghana
8.	Mr. Mohammad Hassan **Daryaei**	Islamic Republic of Iran
9.	Ms. Anne **Tinglin**	Jamaica
10.	Mr. Khaled Suleyman **Al-Hamed**	Jordan
11.	Mr. Ki-Jun **You**	Republic of Korea
12.	Mr. Dinala Jordan **Balakasi**	Malawi
13.	Mr. Ikram Mohd. **Ibrahim**	Malaysia
14.	Mr. Mohammed **Katra**	Mali
15.	Mr. Parasram **Gopaul**	Mauritius
16.	Mr. **Ould Habib** Abderrahmane	Mauritania
17.	Mr. **Ye Minn Thein**	Myanmar
18.	Mr. Tapas **Adhikari**	Nepal
19.	Mr. Farrukh Iqbal **Khan**	Pakistan
20.	Mr. Janusz **Wawrzyniuk**	Poland

21.	Mr. Anthony Joseph **Comrie**	St. Kitts and Nevis
22.	Ms. Damla Yesim **Say**	Turkey
23.	Mr. Karomidin **Gadoev**	Uzbekistan
24.	Mr. Kanguya **Mayondi**	Zambia

B. Programme of studies

4. The programme of fellowships on disarmament is structured in three segments. The first segment is carried out by the Geneva branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and is aimed at exposing the fellows to multilateral negotiations on disarmament undertaken by the Conference on Disarmament. The segment includes a cycle of lectures by senior representatives of States members of the Conference on Disarmament on issues under negotiation in the Conference and attendance at its meetings. The second segment comprises study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament and to member States, at their invitation. The third segment, which is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, consists of a second cycle of lectures by members of delegations to the First Committee of the General Assembly and by United Nations officials on items on the agenda of the Committee and regular attendance at meetings of the Committee. In addition, the fellows are required to prepare individual research papers on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament and security.

5. The 1997 fellowship programme was carried out from 15 September to 31 October. The 1998 programme started on 7 September and will conclude on 29 October. In both years, the fellows, while in Geneva, also had the opportunity to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Group of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, in addition to the activities described above. Presentations on various aspects of the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Group were also made to the fellows by governmental representatives participating in the negotiations.

6. Study visits to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, both in 1997 and 1998, included presentations and briefings on such topics as the new strengthened safeguards system and verification in nuclear-weapon States, safeguard activities and inspections, and nuclear safety activities of IAEA. Visits to the IAEA research centre in Seibersdorf and to the Prater reactor were organized, and relevant documentary films illustrating the work of IAEA were also shown. In addition, a presentation on the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-ban Treaty Organization was organized for the fellows by that institution.

7. At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, the fellows were briefed on the work of the organization, the status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the verification procedures of the Convention, the work of the Inspectorate and the inspection process, international cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention, and the role of non-governmental organizations.

8. As in the past, Germany and Japan invited the fellowship programme on disarmament for study visits which provided the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to get more closely acquainted with the national policies and work of the two Governments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

9. In Germany, the 1997 study visit included several briefings and round-table discussions conducted by officials of the Division of Disarmament and Arms Control of the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn. In addition, the fellows visited a conversion plant (Buck Impar GmbH) in Pinnow where presentations were also made on its relevant work. Although it was not possible for the fellowship programme to undertake a study visit to Germany in 1998 because of conflicting dates, it is expected that this traditional portion of the programme will be resumed in 1999.

10. In Japan, in both years, briefings on various topics relating to disarmament and security were organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, and the Japan Institute of International Affairs in Tokyo. The fellows also participated in visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki where they were received by local officials and taken to sites relating to atomic bombing such as the Atomic Bomb Museum and the Peace Park, in Nagasaki, and the Atomic Bomb Dome and the Institute of Radiation Effects, in Hiroshima. The fellows also met with survivors of the atomic bombing.

III. Conclusion

11. The year 1998 marks the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services. The programme was launched by the General Assembly at its tenth special session in 1978 to promote expertise in disarmament in more member States, particularly in the developing countries. Its importance has been highlighted by the General Assembly on several occasions.

12. In the 20 years of its existence, the programme has trained close to 500 officials from over 150 countries, a large number of whom are now in positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments.

13. In helping to develop greater expertise in disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, the fellowship programme on disarmament has undoubtedly made a concrete contribution to the process of deliberations and negotiations on disarmament. Indeed, the programme has enabled former fellows to participate more effectively in regional and global efforts in the field of disarmament and, by creating an informal network spanning the various regions of the world, to work cooperatively and constructively in the pursuance of disarmament and arms limitation goals.